

State of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations

Public Utilities Commission

Minutes of Open Meeting Held January 5, 2004

Attendees: Chairman Elia Germani, Commissioner Kate Racine, Commissioner Robert Holbrook, Steve Frias, Cindy Wilson, Thomas Massaro, Alan Nault, Douglas Hartley and Luly Massaro.

Chairman Germani called the open meeting to order at 2:00 P.M. in the first-floor hearing room of the Public Utilities Commission. A quorum was present.

Competitive Telecommunications Service Providers:

The following companies registered to provide telecommunication service in RI. The Division has reviewed the registrations and recommends approval of:

3571 - EZ Talk Communications, LLC
3577 - CAT Communications International, Inc.
3579 - ComTech21, LLC
3582 - Lightyear Network Solutions, LLC
2262(X18) - DCT Telecom Group, Inc.
2262(W18) - Transcom Communications, Inc.
2262(U18) - Touchtone Communications, Inc.
2262(V18) - Teleglobe America, Inc.

After review, Chairman Germani asked for a motion and Commissioner Racine moved to approve the registration. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Holbrook and unanimously passed. **Vote 3-0.**

The following companies filed tariff revisions. The Division has reviewed the filings and does not recommend suspension of:

3537 - XO Long Distance Services, Inc.
2535 - Cox RI Telcom LLC
2618 - AT&T Communications of New England, Inc.
3486 - IDT America Corp.
2803 - Metromedia Fiber Network Services, Inc.
2621 - MCI WorldCom
2486 - MCImetro Access Transmission Service LLC
2472 - Sprint Communications
3028 - Qwest Communications
2878 - Choice One Communications, Inc.
3196 - Z-tel Communications, Inc.
2262(G1) - Business Telecom, Inc.
2262(F16) - Bell Atlantic Communications, Inc.
2262(G16) - NYNEX Long Distance Co.
2262(P1) - Working Assets Funding Service, Inc.
2262(P8) - New Century Telecom, Inc.
2262(C8) - CTC Communications Corp.

2262(E18) - Broadwing Telecommunications, Inc.
2262(P15) - Frontier Communications of America, Inc.
2262(A6) - Southwestern Bell Communications Services, Inc.
2262(P7) - MCI WorldCom

After review, the Commission followed the Division's recommendation that the tariff filings be allowed to go into effect without suspension.

The following companies ceased operations and requested that their authority to operate be rescinded. The Division supports the requests of:

2262(W15) - America's Digital Satellite Telephone, Inc.
2262(S10) - Big Planet, Inc.

After review, Chairman Germani asked for a motion and Commissioner Racine moved to rescind the authority to operate of the above companies. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Holbrook and unanimously passed. **Vote 3-0.**

1725 – Rules and Regulations Governing the Termination of Gas, Electric and Water Utility Service: In accordance with prior Commission Orders, Commission Staff, Ms. Wilson, Mr. Nault and Mr. Frias presented proposals to revise the termination rules addressing issues related to revising the winter moratorium, altering the notice prior to termination of service, establishing different payment plans based on the customer's arrearage, and requiring termination of service for customers with balances in excess of \$1000. Commissioner Racine expressed interest in proposing new rules in order to officially begin the process of revising the termination rules to eliminate loopholes that have allowed some customers to accumulate large balances, thereby, making it harder to pay their bills in the long run. Commissioner Holbrook also expressed interest in proposing new rules in order to reduce utilities' uncollectibles, but also expressed interest in obtaining more information. Chairman Germani opposed any mandatory termination provision and questioned the timing of proposing new rules. He desired more time to review and reflect on the rules. No decision was made.

There being no further business to discuss, the open meeting adjourned at 3:30 P.M.